

Remarks

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-29 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 26, 28, and 29 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 22, 26, 28, and 29 are amended. These changes introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-20, 22, and 24, arguing that these claims are anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,189,184 ("Pferdmenges"). Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the carding segment of the present invention, apart from the carding elements, is non-movable. Support for this feature is found in the specification at p. 8, ln. 23-24. Pferdmenges, in contrast, discloses a movable carding segment that rotates about an axis, e.g., axis 20 in the embodiment of FIG. 2 and axis 23 in the embodiment of FIG. 5. Pferdmenges does not disclose a stationary, non-movable carding segment. For at least this reason, claim 1 as amended is not anticipated by this reference.

Because the feature of a stationary, non-movable carding segment appears in claim 1 of the present application, this feature is necessarily incorporated in claims 2-8, 10-13, 15-20, 22, and 24, which depend from claim 1. Hence these claims are likewise not anticipated by Pferdmenges.

The Examiner has also rejected claim 26, arguing that this claim is anticipated by Pferdmenges. This claim has been amended to clarify that the carding segment is non-movable. As discussed above, this feature is not disclosed by Pferdmenges. For at least this reason, claim 26 is not anticipated by Pferdmenges.

Because claim 27 depends from claim 26, claim 27 includes the feature of a non-movable carding segment. Given that this feature is not disclosed by Pferdmenges, claim 27 is likewise not anticipated by this reference.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 28 and 29, arguing that these claims are anticipated by Pferdmenges. These claims have been amended to clarify that the carding segment is non-movable. As discussed above, this feature is not disclosed by Pferdmenges. For at least this reason, neither claim 28 nor claim 29 are anticipated by Pferdmenges.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 9, 14, and 21 as being obvious over Pferdmenges. For each of these claims, the rejection is premised on the Examiner's contention that claim 1 is anticipated by Pferdmenges. As discussed above, amended claim 1 is not anticipated by this reference. Because the features of claim 1 are not disclosed by Pferdmenges, claims 9, 14, and 21 are not rendered obvious by this reference.

The Examiner has also argued that claims 23 and 25 are obvious. For both of these claims, the rejection is premised on the Examiner's contention that claim 1 is anticipated by Pferdmenges. As discussed above, amended claim 1 is not anticipated by this reference. Because the features of claim 1 are not disclosed by Pferdmenges, claims 23 and 25 are not rendered obvious by this reference.

Other Matters

The Examiner has asked that claim 22 be amended to delete the numeral "15." This claim has been amended accordingly.

Applicants: BREUER, *et al.*
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Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Edward W. Yee
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 47,294
VENABLE
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, D.C. 20043-9998
Telephone: (202) 344-4000
Telefax: (202) 344-8300

EWY:acr/sjb
DC2 / 662078